

10. (Once Amended) A microdot mark shape according to claim 1, wherein said dot mark is so configured and arranged on the surface of the article to be marked for product management or various securities.

Please add claim 11 as follows.

11. A microdot mark/shape which is formed by a laser beam, on a surface of an article to be marked by using a laser as a light source, wherein

the microdot mark shape is made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point,

the mark has a protrusion which protrudes in the center portion upward from the surface of the article to be marked,

the length of each dot mark along the surface of the article to be marked is 1.0 to 15.0 μm , and

the dot mark is formed for product management or various securities.

REMARKS

The Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-10. Claims 3-6 stand allowed and claims 1, 2, and 7-10 stand rejected. In this Response, claims 1, 2, and 10 have been amended, claim 11 has been added, and no claims have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-11 are pending in the case.

In Office Action paragraph 5, claims 3-6 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notice of allowed claims.

Claims 1, 2, and 10 have been amended as requested above. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Claim 2 has been amended to delete the phrase "beveled portion of an outer peripheral." Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 2 does not narrow the claim and is not made in response to any claim rejection.

In Office Action paragraph 1, claim 10 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. In response, claim 10 has been amended and claim 11 has been added. Claim 10 now calls for wherein said dot mark is so configured and arranged on the surface of the article to be marked for product management or various securities. Dependent claim 10 further limits its parent claim 1 by reciting that the dot mark is so configured and arranged on the surface of the article to be marked for product management or various securities.

Also, claim 10 in its form prior to the above amendment has been rewritten in independent form as claim 11. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 10 has been overcome.

In Office Action paragraph 2, claims 1, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gao et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,928,750. In Office Action paragraph 3, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Samsavar et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,866,806. In Office Action paragraph 4, claims 1, 2, and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Samsavar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,267,005 B1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the microdot mark shape. Specifically, claim 1 now calls for "the microdot mark shape is made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point." This amendment to claim 1 is supported by the application as originally filed. For example, see the specification at page 32, line 3-page 33, line 5 and Figs. 3 and 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that Gao et al., Samsavar et al. '806, and Samsavar et al. '005 do not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Particularly, Applicants submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the claimed microdot mark shape in which the microdot mark shape is made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point.

Gao et al. pertains to sputtered thermally cycled texture layers formed of high melting point materials. (emphasis added). Gao et al. describes the sputtered texture layer as depositing a texturing material onto a substrate by sputtering. See column 3, lines 1-4 and 23-27, and column 6, lines 16-26. Furthermore, the Gao et al. sputtered, textured surface has a formed shape merely composed of multiple dots arranged at random, as can be seen in Figs. 16-19. This is because Gao et al. seeks to provide a textured surface on a magnetic disk. Conversely, Applicants' invention can be used to provide microdot marking on a surface of an article.

Samsavar et al. '806 pertains to a system for locating a feature of a surface. Such feature can be a laser textured hard disk including a bump or valley. Samsavar et al. '806 uses a probe to locate the surface feature or textured surface area. Similar to Gao et al., Samsavar et al. '806 merely describes a textured surface area and not Applicants' claimed microdot mark shape. Particularly, Samsavar et al. '806 does not disclose or suggest Applicants' microdot mark shape made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point. Further, Applicants submit there is

no suggestion to provide the Samsavar et al. '806 textured surface area with Applicants' claimed microdot mark shape because the Samsavar et al. '806 surface feature is merely a textured area.

Samsavar et al. '005 pertains to a dual stage instrument for scanning a specimen. Samsavar et al. '005 appears to be a so-called "companion application" mentioned in column 1, lines 14-17 to the Samsavar et al. '806 patent. Indeed, the text and figures cited in the Office Action for Samsavar et al. '806 at column 10, lines 8-39 and Figure 8C and Samsavar et al. '005 at column 23, lines 11-44 and Figure 21C appeared to be identical. Accordingly, Samsavar et al. '005 also merely pertains to textured surfaces having bumps rather than Applicants' claimed microdot mark shape. There is no suggestion to form the Samsavar et al. '005 bumps as a microdot mark shape made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point because the Samsavar et al. '005 bumps are merely random bumps forming a textured surface.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the §102(e) rejections have been overcome and request they being withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A microdot mark shape which is formed by a laser beam, on a surface of an article to be marked by using a laser as a light source, wherein

the microdot mark shape is made by one dot mark ~~marks each~~ formed on each laser irradiated point,

the mark has a protrusion which protrudes in the center portion upward from the surface of the article to be marked, and

the length of each dot mark along the surface of the article to be marked is 1.0 to 15.0 μm .

2. (Once Amended) A microdot mark shape according to claim 1, wherein said surface of said article to be marked is a ~~beveled portion of an outer peripheral~~ surface of a wafer.

10. (Once Amended) A microdot mark shape according to claim 1, wherein said dot mark is so configured and arranged on the surface of the article to be marked ~~formed~~ for product management or various securities.